

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA  
ASHEVILLE DIVISION  
1:18 cr 38-1**

Before the Court is the motion for *pro hac vice* admission [# 24] “filed by” James O. Rice Jr., counsel for Defendant.

The Court finds the *pro hac vice* motion was not filed by Attorney Rice. Instead, the motion was forwarded to the Clerk's Office via next-day mail by Attorney Steven Amster—*pro hac vice* counsel for Defendant's codefendant Saudel Benitez. Accompanying the motion was a check from the Law Offices of Steven Amster for \$281.00 to cover the filing fee. This filing shows a conflict of interest between Attorney Amster as counsel for codefendant Benitez and Defendant Lobaco.

Accordingly, the Court **DENIES** the motion [# 24]. The Court **DIRECTS** the Clerk's Office to return Attorney Amster's check to him.

Signed: June 5, 2018

Dennis L. Howell